



Wakulla dominates Suwannee/Page 15

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hi: 68° Lo: 58° 83% Sunrise 7:27 AM Sunset 5:40 PM	Hi: 66° Lo: 39° 11% Sunrise 7:28 AM Sunset 5:40 PM	Hi: 64° Lo: 41° 5% Sunrise 7:26 AM Sunset 5:41 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

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Our 4th Year 49th Issue
Thursday, December 18, 2025

County looks at options

If the Legislature cuts property taxes, and voters approve it, the outlook for small counties like Wakulla could be grim

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Wakulla County Commissioners, concerned about the legislature's idea to do some kind of property tax reform, held a workshop last week to look at possible scenarios and the county's response.

The commissioners held the workshop on Monday, Dec. 8, after their regular meeting.

The state House of Representatives has of-

fered up a few bills but it's not clear what the impacts would be – and of course, even if the bills pass the House and Senate and are signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis, state voters would still have to vote on any measures, and it would have to pass by a 60% margin.

Gov. DeSantis has vowed to protect fiscally constrained counties like Wakulla. Days after the workshop, DeSantis submitted his budget



Clerk of Courts Greg James swears in Ralph Thomas as commission chair on Monday, Dec. 8.

plan that included \$300 million to protect small rural counties.

At the workshop, lobbyist Chris Doolin of the Small County Coalition, told commissioners that if the state steps in the cover them, "fiscally constrained counties will become wards of the state – and you will have to go to the legislature every year" for the local budget.

Fiscally constrained counties are defined as those where a mill of

property taxes is worth less than \$5 million. In Wakulla, a mill equals \$2.5 million. There are 27 fiscally constrained counties in Florida.

Commissioners went through an exercise of what they would have to cut if homestead properties were made exempt from taxes it would create a budget hole of about \$9.5 million for Wakulla. (There is about the same amount of non-homestead proper-

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DECORATING FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Gingerbread houses

Mary Wallace of Capital City Home Loans and Heather Rybak of Rybak Realty held their 4th Annual Gingerbread House Contest over this past week. Ten participants created and entered their elaborate gingerbread houses and were on display at Capital City Bank where everyone could vote on their favorite creative house. This year's winner was Jessica Johnson of Oyster & Oaks Realty, at right with Wallace. Johnson said that her whole family and extended family got involved in creating the gingerbread house so it created some holiday family time too. As the winner, she received a large basket with gift certificates and goodies from Barns Spirits, Jimmy Johns, The Kast Net, Paul and Asha's Kitchen, Salty Donkey's Bar & Grill, Capital City Home Loans and Rybak Realty. It cost \$10 to enter the contest and \$250 of the proceeds was donated to Tammy Godwin and Crissie Cornelius for Operation Santa, top photo. Two lucky voters will also receive a nice little



basket of goodies just for helping pick a winner. Wallace and Rybak, who are both active members of the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce, started the contest as a fun way to promote local businesses and community involvement. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)

Jogger helps save man trapped in truck

Antonio Egleton was on a run to get in shape for basic training when a crash happened in front of him

By LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

"At the end of the day, all I want to know is that he is good and OK," said 19-year-old Antonio Egleton.

Egleton, former Wakulla High School student and former War Eagle football player, was instrumental in assisting Wakulla County Sheriff's Office and EMS in a one-car crash across from Porter Island Seafood, on south Highway 319, on Thursday, Dec. 11.

Egleton crawled inside the upside down, badly crushed cab of a pickup truck to unlock the door to help get the injured driver out.

"I was on a run, and I look up, and a truck was going over a driveway, tumbling, and it landed upside down by a culvert," he said. "I was 500 yards away, so I picked up my pace and I called 911. I saw the first person on the scene, Major Jeremy Johnston, who used to be a Wakulla High School football coach." (Johnston is currently a School Resource Officer for the sheriff's office.)

Egleton was on a run to get in shape in preparation for U.S. Navy basic training.

"I saw Johnston snatching on the door and he could not open it, so we saw that the passenger side window was open, so Johnston said, 'See if you can crawl in there and get the door open.'"

"After unlocking the door, we kept talking to the man in the truck and as soon as EMS arrived, we stepped back and let EMS do their job. When the driver was pulled from the truck, his head was bleeding some."

"As we were talking to the man in the truck, he threw a humorous joke out to us, so we knew he would be all right," Egleton said. "He must have been on his way to do some fishing because he had fishing poles and tackle spilled all over the road from his truck."

"The driver of the truck said he had a heart defibrillator, so there may be a chance a health condition is what caused the accident."

"When I first saw the accident, I didn't think it was real at first, but because I was in a similar accident myself in the past, all I knew is I had to get the man out of the truck," he said. "At that point, you can't be out of control, you have to keep yourself cool, calm and collected. If you're not, one bad move can change the entire outcome of the situation."

"My parents are proud of me, and they have received a lot of calls of praise from people."

"If I ever saw something like this happen again, I wouldn't hesitate one bit to help. My father was a first responder, this is something I have been around my whole life, and I love to help people," Egleton said.



Antonio Egleton

Recycling discussed

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful hosts meeting about end of roadside recycling

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

About 40 citizens turned out for a "recycling summit" last week, concerned over the end of the county's roadside recycling pick up.

The event, hosted by Keep Wakulla County Beautiful, was held at the community center on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

KWCB board member Steve Sanabria warned attendees at the beginning of the meeting, "There are no solutions, there are only trade-offs."

KWCB President Steve Cushman noted the group's surveys show that some residents want recycling, but many don't want to pay for it.

County Administrator David Edwards gave some background to the issue, noting that in



Speakers John Whitfield of Marpan, County Administrator David Edwards, Loyd Childree and Rick Chancey of Waste Pro, and KWCB's Steve Sanabria and Steve Cushman.

2011, when the county entered into an agreement with Waste Pro to pick up garbage in the county, "recycling was a profit maker."

During recent negoti-

ations with the county, Waste Pro complained that "recycling is killing us," Edwards said.

Surveys conducted by Waste Pro and the county indicated that only 20

to 25% of residents were recycling.

Edwards said that Waste Pro offered to continue offering recycling at a cost of \$30 to \$60

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Student of the Week

Mason Stephens – 1st grader, Medart Elementary

Principal: Stan Ward

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Mason is an incredibly hard-working first grader who puts his whole heart into everything he does. He approaches each task with focus and determination, and he never gives up. Not only is he dedicated to his learning, but he is also a wonderful friend. He is kind, helpful, and always ready to include others, making our classroom a happier place. His positive attitude, strong effort, and caring spirit shine every single day.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Ribbon cut for Forward Wellness

The Wakulla Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting for the new location of Forward Wellness on Dec. 1. The health service company recently moved to offices on Songbird Avenue. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)



The Wakulla Sun Readers' Choice Winners 2024

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PSC proposed income limit: 250% of Federal Poverty Level
* May be available mid-2026
Image credit: Apple

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RFWW25

Rotary provides hydroponic garden to culinary program

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Rotary Club of Wakulla held a ribbon cutting last week for the hydroponic garden it donated to the culinary arts program at Wakulla High School.

The hydroponic unit was received about a month prior and for 35 days students had been growing food and herbs.

At the event on Tuesday, Dec. 9, several culinary arts students showed off their skills, serving appetizers that included Asian slaw, lemon sauce over chicken and rice, and avocado toast.

The project began when Marina Mudryy, general manager for So-



Jay Sanchez, assistant governor of Rotary district 6990, Angie Bozeman, president of the Rotary Club of Wakulla, with Ryan Warner, culinary director, and Marina Mudryy of Sodexo.

dexo at Wakulla High, and Kathleen Newton, food service supervisor,

presented the Rotary Club of Wakulla with the idea of creating a

hydroponic garden system for culinary arts students at the high

school. The Rotary Club liked it, and provided nearly \$7,000 to buy a unit.

Angie Bozeman, president of the local Rotary Club, said the idea went along with the club's priorities of supporting kids.

Jay Sanchez, assistant governor for Rotary district 6990, noted his father-in-law, a professor in Venezuela, had long been a proponent of hydroponic gardening. "No insecticide, no fungicide – because no dirt," he said.

The food is produced at low cost and high quality, he added.

Steve Sanabria, sergeant-at-arms for the local Rotary Club, has long been a proponent

of hydroponic gardening and notes that a shipping container converted for use can produce more food than an acre of land.

Superintendent of Schools Rick Myhre was there to support the project, which he said was solely the work of Mudryy and Newton.

He said of them, "Whenever people have an innovative idea, let them run with it."

Culinary director Ryan Warner called it "a beautiful piece of equipment" that would be used to grow food for students to prepare.

Mudryy thanked Rotary for the donation, but said now the program needed more units.

Muscadine care and pruning

Story & Photo By **FRANK HUMPHRIES**
of FAMU

Muscadines are a grape native to the southeastern United States, known for their unique flavor, sweet berries, and strong adaptation to the region's hot, humid climate. Typically enjoyed fresh, they are also used for juice, jelly, and wine.

They are an excellent crop for commercial growers and hobbyist home vineyards.

As temperatures drop and daylight fades, muscadine vines across North Florida enter their winter dormancy. Dormancy is essential for protecting next year's crop.

The rest period is the same with deciduous trees which drop their leaves over wintertime. Understanding what this process does for the vine can make all the difference when spring arrives.

Dormancy allows grapevines to harden off, conserve energy, and protect sensitive tissues from cold injury. Even though the vines appear quiet, they are preparing for next season's growth.

Witnessing this change may raise concern for the growers, but this is a natural phase recurring annually in the autumn.

What growers do during this period, especially in terms of pruning timing, directly affects bud survival and next year's fruitfulness.

North Florida consistently receives more frequent and significant freezing temperatures than Central or South

Florida. Pruning vines too early creates a higher risk of cold damage during unpredictable winter warm-ups and frost events.

Muscadine vines carry next year's shoots and fruit clusters inside tiny compound buds located on one-year-old wood. These buds formed during the previous growing season, and winter dormancy helps safeguard them until spring.

When vines experience cooler temperatures the buds enter a deeper state of rest, remaining protected until conditions warm. Pruning too early removes productive one-year-old wood and reduces the number of healthy buds.

This pruning can also cause buds to swell prematurely, making them much more vulnerable to a late frost and death. Knowing where next year's fruit is formed makes the correct pruning window a tool for potentially improved yields.

In north Florida pruning muscadine vines in early winter is not recommended. It may be tempting to start pruning early when dormancy begins, but this is a mistake. Wait until mid-February or after the last significant frost.

Holding off keeps buds safely dormant during the most unpredictable part of the winter.

If unsure, remember it is always better to prune late than early.

Vines pruned later sometimes show more sap bleeding, but this does not harm the plant. Early pruning, however, can make the tender, young buds more sus-



ceptible to frost damage which will impact the quantity and quality of next year's harvest.

Early winter is the time to prepare the vineyard without cutting back canes. After harvest, gradually ease off irrigation to help vines harden. Only water enough to prevent severe drought in very sandy soils.

No nitrogen fertilizers applied until spring. This is also the ideal time for sanitation.

Remove any mummified berries and obviously diseased canes still hanging on the trellis. These dried, shriveled fruit can carry disease into the next season. Cleaning up now helps reduce fungal problems when vines wake up in spring.

Trellis repairs also fit

well into this season. Tighten wires, replace damaged staples or anchors, and straighten leaning posts while the canopy is thin.

Some older muscadine vines may also show aerial roots along the trunk or cordons, especially in low spots or wetter areas of the vineyard.

These roots often form when the soil stays very moist and low in oxygen. They help the vine absorb oxygen from the air and should be left alone rather than pruned off.

If aerial roots are common in an area, it is a problem with drainage and soil moisture.

Tool care is another important winter task. Sharpen pruners and loppers so they make clean, healthy cuts later. Just as important, san-

itize your tools to help prevent spreading diseases from vine to vine.

Wipe or dip blades regularly in a 70 percent ethanol solution or a dilute bleach solution up to 50 percent, refreshing the solution as it becomes dirty.

Walk through the vineyard and take note of where pruning will be needed once winter ends. Photograph crowded areas or problem spots now so a plan can be developed for healthier spur positioning in spring.

Where product labels allow, a dormant copper or lime-sulfur spray can help reduce fungi overwintering on the vines. Always follow label directions for safety gear, re-entry intervals, and crop instructions, and avoid spraying ahead of a freeze or rainfall.

When the danger of frost has passed, usually by mid-February or later, it is time to prune.

Cut one-year-old canes back to short spurs with three to four buds each. Space these spurs a few inches apart to keep the canopy open and healthy.

Remove any dead, weak, or diseased wood, and clear away tendrils that may be girdling the cordons. Make sure cordons are supported and secure before spring growth begins.

When spring arrives, the vines will be ready to grow productively.

Frank Humphries is a Research Enologist with the Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research in the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

For our readers' convenience, The Wakulla Sun provides this Public Notice Section for all Public Notices not published in the Legal Notice section of the newspaper.



In accordance with Section 121.55, Florida Statutes, Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners intends

to designate the following position to the Senior Management Service Class in the Florida Retirement System: Golf & Recreation Director

December 18, 25, 2025

Notice of Public Hearing Concerning a Text Amendment to the Wakulla County Code of Ordinances

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to adopt the following ordinance. A Public Hearing is scheduled before the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, January 5, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. All affected parties may appear at the public hearings, be heard, and submit evidence and written comments on the application.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA REGARDING ALCOHOL AT SPECIAL EVENTS ON COUNTY PROPERTY; AMENDING SECTION 23.006.5(a) OF THE WAKULLA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AUTHORIZE SPECIAL EVENTS INVOLVING THE USE, POSSESSION, CONSUMPTION, PURCHASE, DISPENSATION, SALE, OR OFFER FOR SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the Wakulla County Administration located at 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8 AM to 4:30 PM M/F; Phone (850) 926-0919. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing & Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARrequest@mywakulla.com. Dec 18, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on **January 5, 2026 at 6:00p.m.** in the Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Rd., Crawfordville, FL., 32327, to Consider:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA REGARDING REAL PROPERTY DISPOSITION; AMENDING SECTION 2.305 OF THE WAKULLA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH AN EXEMPTION FOR REAL PROPERTY LEASED OR CONVEYED PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; PROVIDING CERTAIN FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A copy of this ordinance shall be available for inspection by the public at 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327. Interested parties may appear at the Public Hearing or submit comments and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing & Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARrequest@mywakulla.com

December 18, 2025



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Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

LETTERS FROM READERS

Neighboring Franklin County’s water crisis in Apalachicola

Editor, The Sun:

This week, the City of Apalachicola cut off water to roughly 70 households in a single day including disabled residents and veterans. Many say they received little or no notice. This happened six months after the City promised to explore bill credits and late-fee relief for the months when the water system failed and residents were told not to drink the water.

Instead of relief, we saw mass shutoffs.

For anyone who hasn’t lived this firsthand, here’s the reality. In 2024 and 2025, Apalachicola experienced the worst water crisis in its modern history. Residents endured smelly, gray and black water, skin irritation, unusable tap water, and weeks relying on bottled water and portable showers. On June 14, 2025, the State of Florida declared a Local State of Emergency, and the Florida Attorney General launched an investigation into whether funding intended to fix the system was mishandled, calling it a “real failure of leadership.”

Yet, throughout the crisis, families still received full water and

sewer bills. Many paid their regular bill plus the added cost of bottled water, lost wages, and replacement filtration systems. At a June meeting, residents asked the City for bill credits and the removal of late fees for the period the water was unsafe. The Mayor told residents the City would look into it and would let people know.

To date, no credit program, no late-fee relief, and no clear policy has ever been brought back for a vote or communicated to the public.

Instead, this week, the City executed widespread shutoffs.

This is why Monday and Tuesday’s meetings matter not as political theater, but as a turning point.

Apalachicola’s water system did not fall apart in one bad week. This is the result of decades of deferred maintenance, poor planning, and a pattern of temporary fixes instead of long-term solutions. Millions in grants have flowed through this system over the years, and yet basic infrastructure remained vulnerable. When equipment failed after the 2024 storms, everything finally collapsed.

The proposed local bill is one

of the only concrete structural reforms available right now. It does not “give the water to the state.” It does not erase local voices. It creates a new governance structure with built-in oversight, a mix of local and governor-appointed members, and a requirement that all board members be actual water/sewer customers.

Is the bill perfect? No. It needs improvements, protections, resident input and clearer guardrails.

But rejecting it outright means staying under the same governance system that produced a state-declared emergency, an Attorney General investigation, months of unsafe water, no bill relief and now mass shutoffs right before the holidays.

The people of Apalachicola want clean water, accountability, and a path out of crisis, they deserve to at least see this bill discussed transparently, amended where necessary, and debated with facts not rumors.

Buried in Apalachicola’s own Code of Ordinances is a section titled “Hardship cases.” It allows residents who cannot pay in good faith to apply directly to the Commission for relief. Many of the resi-

dents whose water was cut off this week were likely eligible.

No one was told.

This moment is bigger than politics. It is about public health, fairness, and whether a small coastal community deserves the same basic standard of water reliability that any Floridian should expect.

Residents deserve a full accounting of the shutoffs, clear answers on why promised bill-relief discussions never returned, Transparency about the hardship process, guarantees and protections built into the final version of the local bill, local press coverage to ensure these decisions unfold in the light of day.

Apalachicola deserves accurate, timely coverage and residents deserve to know the full truth about what is being decided about their water system, their bills, and their future.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

Apalachicola City Water Crisis
Community Advocate
Apalachicolacitywatercrisis@gmail.com

Library News

By **LINDA OAKS**
Library Director

Library News Dec. 18th – Dec. 24th

Thursday, December 18th

- Rotary Club of Wakulla 8:30am

- Veteran’s Meetup 11am
- First Lego Robotics 6pm
- American Legion Riders 6pm
- Crotchet Group 6:30pm
- Wakulla Amateur Radio Club 7pm

Friday, December 19th

- Quilting Guild 10am

Saturday, December 20th

- Zeta Phi Beta Auxiliary 9am
- Girl Scout Troop 2351 9:30am

Sunday, December 21st

- Closed

Monday, December 22nd

- No Programs

Tuesday, December 23rd

- No Programs

Wednesday, December 24th

- No Programs

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of December 18

Thursday, December 18

- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County will meet at the public library at 8:30 a.m. this week.
- Coastal Optimist Club meets at noon at Myra Jean’s on the first and third Thursdays.
- Gentle Yoga and Stetching Class, every Thursday, 11:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee

St.

Friday, December 19

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, December 20

- St. Marks Christmas Golf Cart Parade will be held. Line up at Bo Lynn’s at 7 p.m.; parade starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring an unwrapped toy for Operation Santa.

Sunday, December 21

- Winter begins.
- Wakulla Giving Hands holds a food

giveaway every Sunday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the facility across from Medart Elementary on Highway 98.

Monday, December 22

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Monday at 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stetching Class, every Monday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.
- Line Dancing Class is held at Wakulla Dance Academy every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. \$5 per person. Wear dance shoes or tennis shoes.

Tuesday, December 23

- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Wednesday, December 24

- Christmas Eve. Watch for flying reindeer at night.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Thursday, December 25

- MERRY CHRISTMAS!

“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun






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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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Polled at Christmas in the Park:

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

What did you ask Santa to bring you this year?



BAYLEE TUCKER
COAST Charter School

“A long jacket
and some Disney
pens.”



OAKLEN GRAHAM
3 years old

“Big, big excavator
– to scoop & dig.”



IVY WHEELER
5 years old

“A Barbie Dream
House and a
trampoline.”



COLTON MITCHELL
Wakulla Middle School

“A new soccer
goal.”



RIVER MITCHELL
Medart Elementary

“A Labubu keychain.
They are little monsters.”

Wakulla Crossroads

By **VERNA BROCK**

Whew! We're getting down to the wire when it comes to holiday preparations.

The days are full of decorating, stringing lights, finding each loved one's perfect gift, planning menus, plus just carrying on with life. There are parties for each organization, and lots of fun activities to attend. Parades, festivals, Christmas pageants and winter concerts all enrich our lives, but also eat up the calendar! Do you sometimes feel like you

have to grit your teeth and just power through?

Seems the hardest part is finding the balance in all of it, while really embracing the more meaningful aspects of our special days. Let's face it. We all have memories of our own childhoods, and how our families celebrated Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa. Incorporate the ever escalating messages from social media on what constitutes the “perfect” day, and the pressure mounts.

It is so easy to succumb to the compulsion to achieve the ideal vi-

sion of the holiday.

Why is it so easy to be caught up in the materialistic whirlwind of the season, rather than the reasons we celebrate? The siren call of glitz, glamor and acquisition will always drown the quieter voices that speak to our souls, if we allow it.

It is up to each of us to be mindful of the moment, to relish the here and now, and embrace feeding our spirits.

In the meantime, the economy isn't helping. Costs seem to lack any kind of ceiling, whether it's groceries, gifts, energy, decorations, or daily expenses.

Factor in expectations, realistic or

not, and suddenly any hope of a holiday that renews your spirit can slip away. It really can feel like a tug-of-war.

I admit it, I love all the traditions of the holidays. I love the lights, the carols, the fellowship. When feelings of stress threaten to overwhelm, I remind myself what really matters.

For me, it is paramount to focus on what is most important, and that is family and friends. Taking time to pause and reflect on the deeper meanings of the holidays actually helps! If I'm being honest, no one really cares if my home is perfect, as long as it is welcoming!

And THAT I can do in spades.

Fundraiser held for Wakulla Animal Group

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**
Correspondent

To raise funds for Wakulla Animal Group, Sawgrass Zoo Productions teamed up local band Sawgrass Zoo and Palaver Tree arts venue for a music festival with premium raffles and fun on Saturday, December 13th.

The event named “Pet Jam” included local bands Sawgrass Zoo, RiverDogs, The Sevens, Jungle Bird Missile Cat and Cale Barber, who were all on board with the idea of helping animals while providing entertainment for Wakulla this holiday season.

Eli Fenenbock of Wakulla's Sawgrass Zoo and headliner for the event said, “We kicked around the idea of having a musical festival with a fundraiser to bring two worlds together to bring back to the community in several ways, by music and fundraising.”

WAG offers spay/neuter vouchers and vaccination clinics for pets and microchipping services as well as transport for rescue animals. Seven vaccination clinics have been offered by WAG, one in conjunction with Gulf and Franklin counties, the other six in Wakulla.

The next project for WAG will be looking into putting in a “meet and



Teresa Brannon, president of WAG, with Eli Fenenbock of Sawgrass Zoo and WAG vice president Tracy Guidi.

greet” station for future shelter animal adoptees. The goal of the “meet and greet” station is to create a gradual meeting area with shelter animals in a calm environment for potential family members and current family pets within the household. This will be an observation period and interactive opportunity for the shelter animal and prospective adoptive family to gauge compatibility and comfort levels to decide if the shelter animal is a good, healthy fit for the family be adopted.

A huge win for local pets was installation of microchip scanning

stations in our county. WAG's President Theresa Brannon and Vice-President Tracy Guidi said, “After being rewarded a \$500 grant from (Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission's) Officer Association, we have installed microchip scanning stations throughout the county at Azalea Park, CK Mart at Wakulla Station and at Rocky's in Medart. We are installing four or five more soon, and what is great is it gets pets home immediately. We know of at least 18 animals sent home immediately due to the stations so far.

“Also, we have installed misters

at the Animal Shelter, held vaccination clinics alongside Meow or Never pet organization and come January 2026, we will be able to hold our own standalone vaccination clinics.”

Bragging on all the volunteers and donors and abundant offerings to assist the nonprofit, Brannon said, “We have the most amazing team of people and we that are very dedicated to our mission. I've lived here my whole life, and I've met the most wonderful, passionate people, and it feels amazing to put families back together when there are sick or lost pets; it's what keeps us going.

“The Executive Board puts in about 30 hours a week to help the animals, and the volunteers put in 40 or more hours, on top of our everyday jobs and family,” she said. “It's crazy hours but it's a sacrifice and commitment that is very rewarding. We donated over 500 pounds of pet food to the community already this year, we give it away to where it is needed.”

“At the end of the day, we want nothing but healthy, happy pets and owners,” she said.

Raffle items were generously provided by The Seinyard, Civic Brewing Co, Las Palmas, Rockulla Music, Sopchoppy Bakehouse, Sol Electica, Billy Danos, and Angry Fish Charters and more.

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Traveling band

Three War Eagle Marching Band members at Florida State University for the recent Tri-State Band Competition – Emily Zak, Jeremiah Dissmore, and Michael Hill. (Photo by Perry Dissmore)

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

The Browning Hi Power vs: the Springfield XDM



By MARJ LAW

There's something to be said about a tried and true handgun of the past and one of the new-fangled guns of today.

Firearms inventor John Browning designed the Hi Power handgun. Although he died in 1926, the gun was completed by Dieudonne Saive at FN Herstal. The gun finally went into production in 1935.

Guns in the 1920s didn't have a large capacity for rounds in the magazines at the time, so the 13-round Hi Power became widely used in the military. In fact, FN called it the "Hi Power" "in allusion to the 13-round magazine capacity, almost twice that of other designs at the time." This handgun, according to Wikipedia was: "one of the most widely used military pistols in history, having been used by the armed forces of over 50 countries."

Joe, who heavily appreciates Browning's handguns and their history, came across a 9mm Browning Hi Power in one of our local gun shops.

"It's a real Hi Power," he breathes as he looks through the case. "I've

never held an original. This one was made in 1979. It's part of history."

Of course, he had to hold it. And then, of course, he really wanted it. He was so hooked.

"No." I had to put my foot down. "We do not need another gun."

"But it's one of Browning's finest designs," he wheedles.

"No. We can't afford it, and we don't need it," I remind him. "No."

He gives back the gun, his hands holding tight until the shop owner pulls it away.

"It's a collector's item," he moans. "It even has... (dramatic pause) beer barrel sights! I believe only about 3 guns have ever been made with beer barrel sights!"

I make a point to stare at the sights. Yes, they're a huge improvement over traditional military sights, which are usually a groove in the rear and a ramp in the front.

"Those sights are even adjustable on both windage and elevation!" he tells me with great enthusiasm. "It's a true antique! It was made in 1979!"

Yes, sure, those adjustable sights must have been a huge improvement instead of those military sights. But that still doesn't mean we need this particular handgun.

No. For the next 3 weeks, I keep hearing the merits of the Browning Hi Power. By then, I expect the gun to be sold, but I find my way back to the shop.

Sure enough, the Hi Power is still there. I

guess it was meant to be. Drat.

With Christmas more than half a year away, I purchase the gun and hide it in my underwear drawer. The downside of keeping it a secret gift is that I have to listen to Joe dropping heavy hints about the wonders of the Hi Power and how it isn't made any longer and how this particular handgun is in nearly perfect condition and how he'll probably never see another original Hi Power in such great shape. And... And... I pretend to stand firm.

One day, he visits the gun shop to find the gun is no longer available.

"Guess it wasn't meant to be," I say cheerfully, but it was difficult to see his downcast face.

Of course, he got the gun as a Christmas present. He was very happy with it, and still is.

"I know it's a piece of history and a John Browning gun and all that, but don't you think the guns of today are better shooters?" I ask him.

"No," he replies with assuredness. "The Hi Power is made of metal; not of polymer material. The Hi Power was made with great precision. They don't make guns today like they did back when Browning was alive."

"Well, you know, Joe. I beg to differ with you. Take the Springfield XDM you bought me years ago. For one thing, it's a striker-fired gun. You know I prefer striker-fired guns."



The Springfield XDM

The Browning Hi Power

"That's purely subjective," he replies. "I prefer hammer-fired guns."

"Okay. Well, I do like that we had a trigger job on it. The trigger pull is light and trigger travel is short."

"True. But that wasn't original to the gun," he argues.

"Mebbe not, but the grip is great with the way it is cut so there are grooves for your thumb and index fingers. Very ergonomic."

"Okay. You got me there. The grip is narrower and not so boxy as the Hi Power."

"It's lighter than the Hi Power," I remind him.

"True. But not by much."

"The Springfield has a grip safety. You don't have to remember to check if the safety is on or off."

"True," he agrees again. "But you can carry the Hi Power 'cocked and locked.' You cock the hammer and then pull the manual safety lever up. Flip the lever down, and you're ready to shoot. And, in the meantime, the gun will not fire. It's a great safety measure."

"Let's take them to the range," I suggest. "Then we'll find out if historic guns are better than new ones."

"Sure," he agrees. "But first, let's compare these 2 guns."

We measure and weigh. The guns are fairly similar in size. The Hi

Power is 7.8" long overall and weighs 31.5 ounces. The barrel is 4.7" long. Originally, the gun came with magazines holding 13 rounds, but in the fairly recent past, magazines will fit that hold 15 rounds.

The Springfield, also a 9mm gun, is 8.3" overall and weighs 29 ounces. The barrel is 5.25" long. Although I have several 19-round magazines for it, I use the 15-round magazines to give a more fair comparison. Joe puts a 15-round magazine in the Hi Power, too.

We bring both handguns to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range.

Using 124-grain rounds, we shoot 5 rounds each into the 8" targets. First, we have to cock the hammer of the Hi Power because it is a single action only gun. Once cocked, we need to pull back the slide. I find the slide very difficult to manipulate. Joe, with his large hands and bigger bones, finds the slide much easier than I do.

We shoot all 5 rounds. Since Joe worked on the trigger, we find it to be light. Trigger travel is short.

I find the recoil to be substantial. Joe finds it sturdy as well, but again, due to his size and strength, he finds it easier than I do.

Even Joe finds the grip to be wide on the Hi Power. It's really quite wide for me.

Next, we shoot the Springfield.

After loading the magazine, I pull back the slide. It is easy and slick.

We put a red dot sight on it. I vastly prefer a red dot sight to lining up front and rear sights.

Since we had the trigger lightened, it is very light and short indeed.

Recoil on the Springfield is substantially lighter than the Hi Power.

The Springfield's grip is narrower than the Hi Power, making both of us decide the grip is more comfortable.

The Springfield's trigger, trigger travel, ease of racking the slide, grip and recoil are easier than those of the Hi Power.

But somehow, and I can't explain it, there's something about the well broken-in action of the Hi Power. It's smooth, like butter. Somehow, it shoots slick.

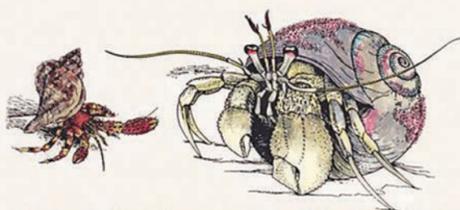
The Hi Power or the Springfield?

The Hi Power is a bit of history, and worn "cocked and locked" is safe and useful as a service pistol.

The Springfield is a great range gun and fine for competition.

They are both fine handguns.

Marj Law is the former director of Keep Wakulla County Beautiful who has become an avid shooter in retirement.



WHITE FLAT CLAWED HERMIT CRAB

(*Pagurus pollicaris*)

This medium sized hermit crab can reach 2". It shares its shell with flatworms that eat debris (and sometimes baby crabs). This scavenger eats almost anything but normally feeds on diatoms. It can also filter feed tiny organisms from the water when food is scarce. The crab is found on the Atlantic coast from Canada to the Gulf. The crabs prefer shells with hydroids and avoid shells with holes or other damage. They congregate where predatory crown conch are hunting snails and wait to pick up choice shells left behind. They also swap shells with each other in elaborate rituals.

Eukarya, Animalia, Athropoda, Decapoda, Paguridae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on a recent wildlife survey at the park, took this photo of an Anhinga.



Wakulla Lawn Ranger

Gene Darby

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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Dec. 18 - Dec. 24



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
Best fishing day(s) is in the center of date ranges.
Dec. 16-22, 31 - Jan. 1-6, 10, 15-21

Thursday 18	
Sun rise/set 7:27 AM 5:40 PM	Moon rise/set 6:23 AM 4:24 PM
Moon Illumination 2%	
Friday 19	
Sun rise/set 7:28 AM 5:40 PM	Moon rise/set 7:19 AM 5:13 PM
Moon Illumination 0%	
Saturday 20	
Sun rise/set 7:29 AM 5:41 PM	Moon rise/set 8:11 AM 6:08 PM
Moon Illumination 0%	
Sunday 21	
Sun rise/set 7:29 AM 5:41 PM	Moon rise/set 8:58 AM -
Moon Illumination 2%	
Monday 22	
Sun rise/set 7:30 AM 5:42 PM	Moon rise/set 9:40 AM 7:06 PM
Moon Illumination 6%	
Tuesday 23	
Sun rise/set 7:30 AM 5:42 PM	Moon rise/set 10:17 AM 8:06 PM
Moon Illumination 12%	
Wednesday 24	
Sun rise/set 7:30 AM 5:43 PM	Moon rise/set 10:50 AM 9:06 PM
Moon Illumination 20%	

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:
High Tide Low Tide
Carrabelle 28 Min. 25 Min.
Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min. 2 Hrs., 38 Min.
Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min. 2 Hrs., 31 Min.
Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min.
West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. 2 Hrs., 39 Min.

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	12:02 am ▲ 3.1 ft	7:20 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:52 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:45 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Fr	12:36 am ▲ 3.1 ft	7:56 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:25 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:22 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Sa	1:10 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:30 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:58 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:58 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Su	1:43 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:02 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:32 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:36 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Mo	2:18 am ▲ 3.3 ft	9:33 am ▼ -0.7 ft	4:06 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:15 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Tu	2:55 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:05 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:40 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:58 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
We	3:37 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:40 am ▼ -0.5 ft	5:15 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:46 pm ▼ 1.0 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	12:38 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:24 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:28 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:49 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Fr	1:12 am ▲ 2.9 ft	9:00 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:01 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	8:26 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Sa	1:46 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:34 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:34 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	9:02 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Su	2:19 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:06 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:08 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	9:40 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Mo	2:54 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:37 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:42 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:19 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Tu	3:31 am ▲ 3.0 ft	11:09 am ▼ -0.6 ft	5:16 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:02 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
We	4:13 am ▲ 2.9 ft	11:44 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:51 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:50 pm ▼ 0.9 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	12:12 am ▲ 3.1 ft	7:42 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:15 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	7:03 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Fr	12:47 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:20 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:51 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:39 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Sa	1:21 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:56 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:27 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:16 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Su	1:55 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:31 am ▼ -0.8 ft	4:02 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:54 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Mo	2:32 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:03 am ▼ -0.8 ft	4:37 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	9:34 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Tu	3:11 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:36 am ▼ -0.7 ft	5:11 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:18 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
We	3:54 am ▲ 3.1 ft	11:09 am ▼ -0.5 ft	5:45 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:08 pm ▼ 1.1 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	7:31 am ▲ -0.4 ft	1:44 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:56 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Fr	12:28 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:07 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:17 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:33 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Sa	1:02 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:41 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:50 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:09 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Su	1:35 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:13 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:24 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:47 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Mo	2:10 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:44 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:58 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	9:26 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Tu	2:47 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:16 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:32 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	10:09 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
We	3:29 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:51 am ▼ -0.3 ft	5:07 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	10:57 pm ▼ 0.7 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	7:15 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:18 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:47 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Fr	12:12 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:48 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:49 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	7:16 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Sa	12:47 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:22 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:21 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	7:48 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Su	1:25 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:57 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:56 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	8:25 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Mo	2:04 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:34 am ▼ -0.8 ft	4:31 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	9:09 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Tu	2:47 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:11 am ▼ -0.7 ft	5:07 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	9:58 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
We	3:34 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:49 am ▼ -0.6 ft	5:43 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:55 pm ▼ 1.0 ft

Dog Island West End

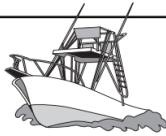
Th	7:32 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:14 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	7:14 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Fr	12:13 am ▲ 2.2 ft	8:03 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:45 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	7:39 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Sa	12:55 am ▲ 2.2 ft	8:35 am ▼ -0.9 ft	4:16 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	8:05 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Su	1:35 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:10 am ▼ -0.9 ft	4:44 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	8:36 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Mo	2:14 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:48 am ▼ -0.8 ft	5:10 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	9:18 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Tu	2:55 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:27 am ▼ -0.7 ft	5:36 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	10:19 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
We	3:43 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:05 am ▼ -0.6 ft	6:02 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	11:24 pm ▼ 1.1 ft

Best hunting and fishing based on solar times: MAJOR feeding periods are 2 hours long, centered on the solar time. MINOR feeding periods are only 1 hour long, again centered on the solar time.



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The members of Flotilla 12 wish all of you a very joyous and special holiday season!

In the spirit of the holidays, we wanted to share with you a story about how the Coast Guard helps bring the Christmas Spirit to Chicago every year.

As the story is told, Herman Schuene-mann was the captain of the original Christmas Ship, the Rouse Simmons. He came to Chicago from Michigan for more than 30 years with fresh ever-greens and wreaths for the holiday season during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

On Nov. 23, 1912, Capt. Schuene-mann was at the helm of the fabled Christmas Ship, the Rouse Simmons. On that day while transiting from Michigan, Capt. Schuene-mann and the Rouse Simmons were lost in a storm and sank with a crew of 16 between Ke-waunee and Two Riv-

Boating Emergencies

Coast Guard Station	
Panama City	(850) 234-4228
Coast Guard Station	
Yankeetown	(352) 447-6900
Coast Guard Auxiliary	
Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12)	(850) 942-7500
or	(850) 284-1166

ers, Wisconsin.

As was reported by CBS, Christmas Ship Committee chairman George Kissel said, "That without a Christmas tree there is no Christmas. Since 2000, over 31,000 Christmas trees have been given to Chicago families who had likely not otherwise been able to have a Christmas tree."

Many community organizations, including the Auxiliary, work to offload the trees and deliver them to needy families throughout Chicago and the surrounding areas. The Christmas trees are purchased through donations,

which can be submitted through www.christmasship.org.

The annual event, held at Navy Pier, continues the legacy of the Capt. Schuene-mann and the Rouse Simmons, as it had become a part of their family tradition to purchase their trees from the schooner.

The Mackinaw opens for tours following the unloading of the trees. This year, the ship arrived at Navy Pier on Dec. 1 with 1,200 trees that were donated to families in need.

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident.

If you would like to learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve Hults, Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations at steve.hults@uscgaux.net

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Norma Hill at njhill@ballstate.bsu.edu.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Dorsal light response.
March 1, 2012

While going to school in Hawaii, I naturally spent a lot of time underwater, looking at reef animals. Under ledges and in marine caverns, I would see these fish swimming around upside down!

Of course I emulated them to better understand their tendency to swim in this manner. My regulator would fill up with water and soon send me back out into the open water sputtering. The fish fled with me and hovered about me now upside right! Something under the ledge must be doing this to the fish (and not me).

In my senior year in college I chose to experiment with these same fish as part of an animal behavior class project. I tried moving surfaces around, currents, day vs. night all in an aquarium and to no avail. My fish stayed upright. Then one day the light in my room reflected off a glass surface and beamed into the transparent aquarium from the floor. The fish, a long nose butterfly fish, promptly turned upside down. It seems they have what is called a dorsal light response, turning their top surface towards light.

Since they are neutral in their buoyancy, and only find these conditions in overhangs on the reef, they rise up to the ceiling of a ledge and swim upside down. I was able to replicate this condition, even without the ceiling substrate, by inserting a tight mesh box into the aquarium that had all dark sides except one where the light could penetrate. I could turn the mesh box randomly causing the fish to swim on its side, upside down or otherwise at my command. Needless to say, I earned a good grade in that class.

Fast forward a decade or so and find me diving under 10 feet of ice in the Antarctic. There, snow on the ice darkens the surface ceiling, except where our entrance hole beams light on to a crystalline reef. I would often find myself unexpectedly upside down, even on my knees pressed against the hard ice ceiling, looking up – no, down – at the sponge reef below.

I had strange sensations in my head since gravity continued to affect the balancing organs of my inner ear that conflicted with what my eyes were seeing. Ultimately the inner ear won, permitting me to drop to the sea floor and get on with data collecting.

Since I was hose diving, breathing in a helmet with gasses from the surface was better; at least my gas supply was not interrupted, but rising bubbles still confused sight!

Fast forward another few decades and find me diving under tons of rock in a very large cavern near Williston, training/evaluating yet another new rebreather. Here we carry our own lights, so dorsal light response is not so much an issue. After two days of testing, where everyone swam around on the floor, pretty much like normal fish – ah, people – do, I found myself drawn to the walls and then the ceiling.

But unlike others up there with me, I was comfortably upside down. For much of the last dive I spent watching the other test divers swimming upside down on the ceiling substrate. I mean they seemed strange looking at me strangely. What was notable was for the first time, I discovered a rebreather that truly breathes equally in all attitudes, head up, down, somersaults and on my back. And no exhaled bubbles were released to confuse sight.

Of course I was reprimanded by the dive supervisors of the evaluation for my antics, but exalted by the designing engineer who agreed with me that it no longer mattered as to which way was up. I am a fish!

Editor's Note: This is a repeat of a column from 2012.

Shell Point golf cart parade



PHOTOS BY SUE MORGAN



Christmas reminder: You are loved more than you realize



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Years ago, I cuddled my 1-year-old granddaughter. Looking into her sweet little face, I said, “Emma, do you know how much I love you?” Immediately, I

sensed my heavenly Father asking me the same question.

“Sheryl, do you know how much I love you?”

I remember pausing to consider my heavenly Father’s grand question that day, but I’m sure I didn’t come close to grasping the full extent of His love.

How about you? Do you realize how much God loves you?

If you’re like me, you’ve made some pretty bad choices. And because of those mistakes, our relationships have suffered. We feel insecure. Some-

times we wonder why anyone would love us.

Especially God.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful, especially this Christmas season, if we could take God at His Word and absolutely believe that He loves us, despite everything we’ve done?

How would this truth transform us?

How would feeling secure in our heavenly Father’s love change how we see ourselves in the mirror? How would our ambitions and goals appear when illuminated by perfect, unconditional

love?

And how would it impact our relationships? Would we begin to invest more time in others? Forgive easier and sooner?

Would we finally be able to forgive ourselves?

Believing God loves us – unconditionally – could change the way we celebrate Christmas.

But how can we know, without a doubt, that the creator of the universe really does love us, rebelliously flawed as we are?

Listen to God’s own words: “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sin-

ners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8 ESV).

If this verse is too familiar, you might miss the beauty of its message. Take a moment and read it again, personalizing it and emphasizing each word:

“But God clearly shows and proves His own love for me, (your name), by the fact that while I was still a sinner, Christ died for me, (insert your name again!).”

Let me ask once more (while also asking myself): Do we know, absolutely know, how much God loves us?

We’ll never fully comprehend how much our heavenly Father loves us. How could we ever truly grasp its vastness? Perhaps the more we think about this week’s verse and the more we speak it out loud in the first person, the more we’ll understand... how much He truly does.

Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com.

Tiny echoes of heaven



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

It was Dec. 7, 1988, and I was celebrating my birthday when I witnessed the innocence of children and the magic of Christmas come together in one unexpected moment of holiday wonder. Let me explain.

We were traveling through a small town in North Florida when we noticed the streets blocked with people and vendors. Someone in the

crowd mentioned the parade would begin at 7 p.m. My husband found a side street to park, and we walked the children up a little embankment to watch the lights and festivities.

The decorated floats, the high school band playing Christmas carols, and the joyful carolers were met with applause from the crowd – and wide-eyed delight from my little ones. At 6 and 2 years old, they took in every flicker of light and every sound that drifted our way, the night bursting with color and music. However, it was the final float that truly captured them: Santa rode in a wagon pulled by two “reindeer,” each wearing antlers, one proudly displaying a bright red nose. With ev-

ery hearty “HO-HO-HO,” the children squealed with delight, “It’s Santa!”

We waited for the crowd to thin before making our way to the car. In the calm of that little embankment, my son looked up and said, “Mommy, it was nice of them to give you a parade for your birthday.” Only a child could speak something so sincere, so full of wonder. In that tender moment, I was reminded that children don’t just see events – they celebrate them. They take in joy without hesitation. They step right into wonder and call it good. Such celebration echoes through Scripture, where God’s people have always marked His mighty deeds with song and dance.

When Moses led Israel

through the Red Sea, his sister, Miriam, took her tambourine, lifted her voice, and led the women in dance before the Lord, celebrating His deliverance (Exodus 15:20–21). Generations later, David rejoiced before the Lord as he danced with all his might while the Ark of the Covenant was brought into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:14–15).

Centuries later, the joy of God’s presence continued to be celebrated. When Christ was born, heaven couldn’t remain silent – the angels filled the sky with praise, proclaiming the birth of our Savior, while the shepherds hurried to share the good news (Luke 2:8–14). Later, at the wedding in Cana, joy overflowed as Jesus turned water into wine,

revealing God’s delight in life, abundance, and His presence (John 2:1–11).

Celebration has always been the natural response to God’s goodness, and even now Scripture tells us the angels rejoice when one soul turns toward redemption (Luke 15:7); heaven breaks into song over one heart made new – and I can’t help but wonder if, in that small North Florida town on a December evening, the innocent joy of my children was just a tiny echo of that greater, eternal celebration – the joy of heaven breaking through in simple, surprising ways.

Perhaps today, we can choose to step into that wonder ourselves – celebrating God’s goodness

not only in the extraordinary but in ordinary moments: in laughter, in light, in music, and in simple acts of kindness. As Psalm 100 reminds us, we are called to come before the Lord with joy, to serve Him with glad hearts, and to lift our voices in thanksgiving.

Let us not wait for a parade or festival to remind us that joy is always possible, that heaven rejoices over hearts turning to God each day.

Philippians 4:4 – “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Cheryl Mixon-Cruce is Pastor of Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church and Sopchoppy United Methodist Church.

OUT TO PASTOR

When it comes to gifts, I’m not gifted



By **JAMES SNYDER**

Christmas is my favorite holiday. A time of celebration and enjoying family time together.

It wasn’t always my favorite holiday. There was a time when my birthday was my favorite holiday of the year. I enjoyed celebrating my birthday with presents and that amazing birthday cake that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always made.

That is, when I reached 50 years on my birthday, it came to an end. No more celebrating getting one year older. Every year on my birthday, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would say, “Today you are one year older.” And then she would laugh.

Now Christmas is my favorite holiday, and I enjoy just about every aspect of it. It’s great to have my family together around the Christmas tree and sharing Christmas presents. That’s a really fun time of the year.

I must confess that I do have a problem with the Christmas holiday.

I don’t have any problem with gathering together and eating a marvelous Christmas dinner. The issue I have concerns the gifts. When it comes to some-

thing like gifts, I am absolutely not gifted.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I really don’t know how the shop. I don’t know what gifts to buy for anybody in my family. Sometimes I give cash.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage starts her Christmas shopping right after the 4th of July. All summer long, she will be shopping for and storing those Christmas gifts in her craft room. Of course, I never go into her craft room because I would get lost and not know my way out. But she can figure out every gift every individual in our family deserves.

I can’t sit down and name all of the family members, let alone know what they would like for Christmas.

When I was a kid, my parents would take me downtown to visit Santa Claus. I would sit on Santa Claus’s lap and tell him what I really wanted for Christmas. Little did I know that my parents were right next to Santa, listening to all my Christmas wish lists?

It was amazing on Christmas Day to find out that Santa had come through with my Christmas gifts. It took me a long time to realize that Santa had nothing to do with my Christmas gifts, but they all came from my parents. My parents knew me better than I knew myself.

That said, looking back on my life of Christmas gifts, I do not believe I could name my favorite. I’m not even sure what I got for Christmas last year.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I celebrate our 55th Christmas this year. She can sit around the Christmas tree and recall every gift we have ever received or given and to whom.

That makes Christmas a great challenge for me. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has no problem with Christmas gift shopping. I must confess that most of the time I let her do the shopping for me, I have to pay for it.

One of the greatest disappointments in Christmas gifts is that I don’t know who wants what.

Another problem I have with Christmas gifts is that I don’t know what I want. I can’t think of anything that I would want anybody in my family to buy me for Christmas. They always come around and bring me things that surprise me, and I appreciate it. But if I had to make a list of what I wanted for Christmas, that list would be blank even today.

My other big problem with Christmas gifts is for The Gracious Mis-

tress of the Parsonage. I would never know what Christmas gift she would like from me. What does she need for Christmas? After all, she has me, so what else does she need?

If I’m going to do Christmas right, I’ll need to ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage what I should get for each of the family members. When I asked her that question, she didn’t need to think about it and came up with a long list of what I could get for each of my family members.

Oh boy, if I didn’t have her, I wouldn’t be able to celebrate Christmas as I do today.

In her craft room, she has a special place, I don’t know where it is, where she stores all of her Christmas gifts for the coming year. She knows what she has and who it’s for. I sometimes wonder whether Santa Claus might be part of their family heritage.

I’m looking forward to a wonderful Christmas. It is amazing to me to see the gifts people give each other. I can only assume that they get that trait from The

Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Celebrating Christmas around the Christmas tree is a wonderful time to be with family.

Thinking along this line, a scripture came to mind. “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Christmas is a great time to gather and give God the glory for all He

has done for us. A time to remember all God has done for us during the year and looking forward to the New Year.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, email jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.



Sopchoppy United Methodist Church

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

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Worship 11 a.m.

Bible Study
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Sunday 9:45 am

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Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Dec. 5th to 12th. There were 1,256 total calls for service during the week.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

• Deputy Arturo Cordoba conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Woodville Highway and Cumberland Trace. Deputy Cordoba made contact with the driver, who was identified. The driver recently received a citation and an indefinite suspension on her license in November 2025. Subsequently, she was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without further incident.

• Deputy Joshua Parker conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Boykin Road and Coastal Highway due to faulty equipment. During the stop, the odor of marijuana was detected. After confirming that the occupants of the vehicle did not possess a medical marijuana card, a probable cause search was conducted. During the search, a small clear vial-like container was located with white powder residue. The residue was field test and produced a presumptive positive for cocaine. Furthermore, 27.6 grams of marijuana was located. All narcotics/paraphernalia were seized and submitted to property and evidence. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the county jail without incident.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

• Deputy Dylan Buckhalt responded to the 200 block of Tafflinger Road in reference to a theft complaint. Contact was made with the reporting party, who advised his electric bike was missing. The bike was last seen on Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. Upon canvass of the neighborhood, one of the neighbors re-

viewed their Ring camera footage and advised they observed a subject wearing a white hoodie retrieve the bike from the property prior to fleeing the area.

• Deputy Jackson Kittrell responded to Ted Lott Lane in reference to a criminal mischief complaint. Contact was made with the reporting person, who advised his father arrived at his residence and proceeded to begin damaging multiple vehicles on the property. He advised the incident may have stemmed from a disagreement between the two on Dec. 3. The father wanted to remove money from a joint marketing account the two share, but the reporting person already transferred some of the funds to prevent him from having access. Prior to the father arriving on scene, he sent the reporting person a screenshot of his Uber ride destined for his residence. At this point the reporting person proceeded to contact law enforcement. His neighbor witnessed the father damaging both vehicles with a wooden stake from their property and provided a sworn statement. The reporting person wished to pursue charges for the incident. Subsequently, the father was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without further incident.

• Deputy Joshua Parker conducted a traffic stop due to having faulty equipment. During the stop, the odor of marijuana was detected. After discovering that the occupants of the vehicle did not possess a valid medical marijuana card, a probable cause search was conducted. During the search, a small amount of marijuana was located, seized, and submitted to property and evidence for destruction.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

• Deputy Dylan Buckhalt conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle around Avondale Drive and Windsor Way on a vehicle with no lights on during inclement weather. Contact was made with the driver, who fled during the traffic stop and was eventually subdued near the 700 block of East Ivan Road. Upon a search of the driver's belongings 73.6 grams of presumptive positive methamphetamine were located. He was subsequently placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without further incident.

• Walmart Asset Protection reported a theft that occurred on Dec. 6. It was advised the asset protection officer was approached by a black female who said she had lost her keys. During her interaction, the female was acting odd and appeared to be trying to distract her. The store official stated after assisting the female, she reviewed video surveillance to discover that the female exited the store passing all final points of sale with \$237.47 worth of merchandise. After further investigation, the female was possibly identified.

MONDAY, DEC. 8

• Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to Metcalf Road and made contact with the reporting person, who stated someone came onto his property and stole his RV. He purchased the RV in Texas, but never registered it in his name. He is going to contact the subject he purchased the RV from and obtain the RV information so it can be entered in NCIC/FCIC.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

• Deputy Aimee Hoagland responded to the 100 block of Sweetwater Circle and made contact with the reporting person, who stated an unknown subject opened an ac-

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Ronald Kent Brown**, 81, of Sanborn/Sopchoppy, died December 9, 2025.

• **Doris Lindsey Quince**, 91, of Sopchoppy passed away December 7, 2025

• **David Bradley Strickland**, 71, of Crawfordville, passed away December 4, 2025

Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com.

• **Oneta Dowling**, 96, of Crawfordville, formerly of Kingman, Arizona on December 8, 2025.

count with Discover in the amount of \$1,800. He has filed complaints with Discover and the Credit Bureau. Case forwarded to Criminal Investigations Division.

• Deputy Austin Rivers responded to the 100 block of Neely Road and made contact with the reporting person, who stated she ordered a motorized scooter as a Christmas gift and the FedEx driver came to her residence and told her the item was not on the truck, but proceeded to upload a photo of a random yard and updated the status on the package as delivered. The reporting person believes the FedEx driver may have stolen the package.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

• Deputy Ashton Williams responded to Maxson Road in reference to a fraud complaint. Upon arrival, contact was made with the reporting party, who advised she discovered some fraudulent charges to her Direct Express (Disability Income) account. She advised the unauthorized charges occurred between Dec. 7 and Dec. 9. She advised she allowed her sister to use her card for an online Pandora purchase around Thanksgiving and her sister never received the order. At this time her account has lost a total of \$1,130.

• Deputy Ashton Williams responded to SRM Concrete in reference to a lost property

complaint. Upon arrival, contact was made with the reporting person, who advised he never received a package via FedEx. The package was scheduled to arrive on Nov. 26 at his address however, he never received the package. He is requesting the incident be documented at this time in order for the sender to send a possible replacement package.

THURSDAY, DEC. 11

• A citizen reported receiving a phone call from a subject who identified himself as part of the sheriff's office and advised him he had active warrants. The reporting person stated he was advised to send money through PayPal to clear the warrant which he did. He stated he realized he had been scammed when PayPal stopped further transactions due to possibility of fraud. He then alerted his bank which advised they would return the money and conduct an investigation. He advised he would still pursue charges and completed a request for prosecution.

• A citizen reported his vehicle being broken into and damage done to his inflatable boat. He advised he went to work on his boat to make it water-ready once again. While working on the boat he was called by a friend for assistance. He attended to SRM Concrete in reference to a lost property

there were holes in his boat and his vehicle window was busted. He advised a battery pump and an alcoholic beverage was stolen from the truck. A suspect has been identified.

• Deputy Ashton Williams responded to the sheriff's office lobby in reference to a fraud complaint. Upon arrival, contact was made with the reporting person who advised he discovered an unauthorized charge to his Prime Meridian Bank account, totaling \$5,704. He did not authorize anyone to remove money from his account and is not sure where the charge originated from. He has reported the issue to his banking institution and wishes to pursue charges.

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

• Sgt. Shayne Broxsie responded to the sheriff's office lobby in reference to a lost property complaint. Upon arrival, contact was made with the reporting person who advised he misplaced his wallet earlier in the day. He last saw the wallet at his residence and believes he may have left it on top of his vehicle as he loaded his kid into the car for daycare. He has canceled his debit card and the only other items listed missing were a Veterans Administration card and his driver's license.

Report suspicious or illegal activity at 850-745-7100, or call 911 for emergencies.

County options

From Front Page

The House bills, at least, have provisions to hold law enforcement harmless, prohibiting any cuts to those budgets.

Commissioners acknowledged if they had to made budget cuts, they would first go for discretionary spending for services – which totals \$3.2 million and include the library, veterans

services, and economic development. And they would look at reducing mandatory services – selling county properties, closing the animal adoption center, outsourcing probation, and reducing staff and limiting service hours.

At an audit committee meeting of constitutional officers on Wednesday, Commission Chairman Ralph Thomas told those at the meeting that, after

discretionary spending cuts, the commission would be looking at needed cuts of 20% across the board. Since the sheriff's office would be exempt, that would amount to a 30% cut.

At Monday's workshop, citizens who spoke were sharply critical of commissioners.

Ravyn Fears was convinced that there was more fat to cut from the county finances, saying government always has waste. And she said the workshop exercise was

little more than "fear mongering" by commissioners.

Citizen Ken Fisbie commented that government should be run like a business and suggested commissioners create a citizen board to make recommendations. One of his own suggestions was to sell the county airport.

David Damon brought up impact fees and said commissioners had missed the opportunity to make development pay for itself.

Recycling

From Front Page

a month.

Lloyd Childree of Waste Pro said at the meeting that the cost of recycling is triple what landfill rates are.

John Whitfield of Marpan noted that the company's business model has changed over the years – what were lucrative recycling products a decade ago no longer are profitable. And the battle is made more difficult by "single-stream" recyclables – that is, a single container of recyclable

products such as plastic, glass and paper – because of contamination.

Two problems with single stream recycling were noted: Many residents have a lack of knowledge about what is actually recyclable; and many loads are contaminated – by jars with peanut butter still inside, bottles with ketchup – and must be completely thrown out.

Cushman noted KWCB has been offering recycling at the county transfer station on Martin Luther King Jr. Road and had to recently take a

whole load to the dump after someone threw in bags of household garbage.

Many residents asked for more information on what is recyclable and how to properly recycle goods.

Cushman said many plastic products with the "Recycle" symbol actually aren't recyclable – a bit of greenwashing by companies trying to mollify consumers.

Whitfield of Marpan noted that labels on glass jars and bottles make it difficult to recycle the products – which are considered the most recyclable.

BRIAN C. ENGLISH

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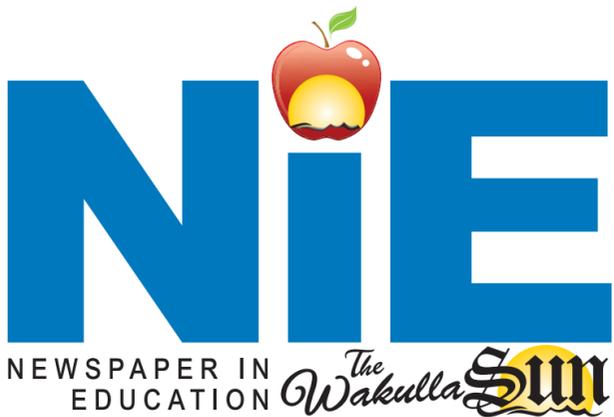
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USE THE NEWS

1. YOUTH ACTIVISTS TRY TO PROTECT A CLIMATE WIN

A group of young people in Montana went to court because they believed state laws were harming the environment and their future. In 2023, a judge agreed that the state must think about climate change when approving fossil fuel projects. After the court win, state leaders passed new laws that limit how much the government can consider pollution and climate effects. The young activists say these new laws ignore the court's decision and could make climate change worse. They are now asking Montana's highest court to stop the new laws and protect their right to a safe environment. Think about a place in nature that you care about, such as a park, river, forest, or backyard. Draw a picture showing what that place looks like when it is healthy and protected. Then write 3-4 sentences explaining why it is important to take care of this place and what kids and adults could do to help keep it safe.

2. DISNEY INVESTS TO BRING CHARACTERS TO A.I. VIDEOS

Disney announced it is investing \$1 billion in a company called OpenAI, which makes artificial intelligence tools. One of these tools, called Sora, can create short videos using words typed by a person. Soon, people may be able to make videos featuring famous characters like Mickey Mouse, Cinderella, and Star Wars heroes. Disney says it wants to protect its characters while using new technology in a responsible way. Some adults worry that using favorite characters with AI could confuse or attract young kids in unsafe ways. Choose one fictional character you know well from a book, movie, or show. Write 3-5 sentences explain-

ing what makes that character special and how you think creators should protect them so they are used in kind, safe, and fair ways. End by explaining one rule you would make about using characters in new technology.

3. "COLOR OF THE YEAR"

Pantone is a company that chooses a "Color of the Year" to inspire artists and designers around the world. For 2026, Pantone chose a soft white color called "Cloud Dancer." Some people criti-

cized the choice and said it had political or social meaning. Pantone explained that the color was chosen because it feels calm, peaceful, and creative, not because of politics. The company said colors can make people feel different emotions and help spark imagination. Think about a color that makes you feel calm, happy, excited, or creative. Write 3 sentences describing that color and how it makes you feel. Then draw something using that color and explain in one sentence why it would

be a good "Color of the Year" for kids.

4. HELPFUL HUNTERS

Scientists discovered that killer whales and Pacific white-sided dolphins sometimes work together to find food. The dolphins help lead the whales to salmon, and the whales may share bits of fish with them. This teamwork surprised scientists, who once thought dolphins were stealing food. Using drones and underwater cameras, researchers saw that both animals benefit from hunting together. The study shows that animals

can form helpful partnerships in nature. Imagine two different animals working together to solve a problem, like finding food or staying safe. Design a comic strip or write a short story (4-5 sentences) about how they help each other and what each animal does best. Finish by explaining what this story teaches about teamwork.

5. READING RATES DROPPING

Many students today read fewer whole books in school than students did in the past. Teachers often assign short stories or parts of books in-

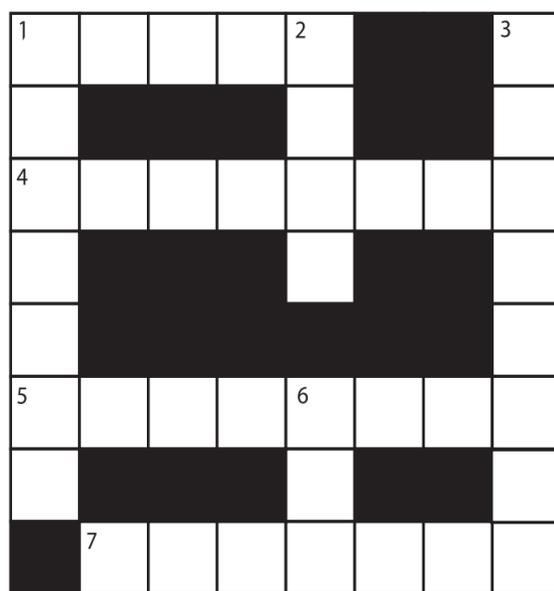
stead of full novels. Some people think this is because of testing, technology, and limited class time. Others worry that students are losing the ability to focus on long stories. Some teachers still believe kids enjoy and benefit from reading entire books together. Think about a book you have read or listened to from beginning to end. Write 4 sentences explaining what the book was about and why you liked or remembered it. Then write one sentence explaining why reading a whole book can be different from reading just a short part.



This dessert is made from dough that is either rolled, cut or pressed into shape.

Answer: Cookie

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Chocolate powder
- Fruit growing areas
- Outside of a place
- Eats

DOWN

- Handheld desserts
- Not at home
- Sweet treats
- Fish eggs

Answers:
Across
1. Cocoa 4. Orchards 5. Exterior 7. Ingests
Down
1. Cookies 2. Away 3. Desserts 6. Roe

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1777: The Continental Army goes into winter quarters at Valley Forge.

1924: The last Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost is sold in London, England.

1941: Adolf Hitler appoints himself as head of the Oberkommando des Heeres.

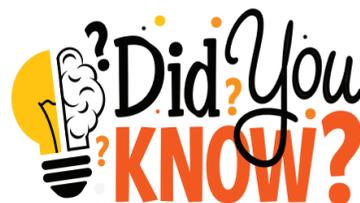
NEW WORD

CHIP

a small piece of solid chocolate



English: Dough
Spanish: Masa
Italian: Impasto
French: Pâte
German: Teig



Twisting the cookie cutter when cutting out the cookie dough can prevent the dough from rising properly and create inconsistent shapes.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Rolling pin

Christmas Storytime with Sheriff Miller...



Sheriff Jared Miller reading 'Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer' to children on Friday night at the Wakulla County Public Library.



The sheriff with his grandson, Forbes Miller, a grandson he shares with Wakulla Community Theatre's Mina Sutton.

... followed by Christmas in the Park



After the sheriff leaves the library he goes to Hudson Park to introduce Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.



School Resource Officer Julie Adan with student Arlenis Cuellar.



Susan Vickers, Alex Cheek, Lynda Brahier and Ashley Yost of the county planning office.



At left, Paula Bell, Robert Fitzgerald, Ashley Cappinger, and Payton, Gracie and Easton Reynolds.



At left, Sheriff Miller with Olivia Daglis. More than 500 toys were given away by the sheriff's office to children, when that ran out, they bought more toys and gave those out.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE EXCEPT THE ONE AT RIGHT BY LINDA ANN McDONALD

THIS PHOTO BY PERRY DISSMORE

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FICTITIOUS NAMES

FICTITIOUS NAME
Notice under Fictitious Name Law, pursuant to Section 856.09, Florida Statutes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Lisa L Freeman, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **BLANKET LADY**
Located at 25 Imaginary Ln, Crawfordville, FL 32327
In the County of Wakulla
Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
Published on December 18, 2025

FICTITIOUS NAME
Notice under Fictitious Name Law, pursuant to Section 856.09, Florida Statutes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Christopher C Nash, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **FALLING LEAVES**
Located at 20 Leyland Ct, Crawfordville, FL 32327
In the County of Wakulla
Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
Published on December 18, 2025

NOTICE OF ACTION

**1218-0108 TWS NOA
IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR
WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 25-CC-267**

CHARLES L. DUNLAP
POST OFFICE BOX 683, ST. MARKS, FL 32355
PLAINTIFF,
VS
MICHAEL AND LOUISE DECKER
500 N. CHERRY, FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78642
DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF ACTION
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for establishment of ownership of personal property described as: SIMPLEX MOTOR CYCLE #H3517 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Plaintiff, CHARLES L. DUNLAP whose address is: Post Office Box 683, St. Marks, Florida 32355 on or before **January 8, 2026**, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this **Dec. 8, 2025**.

{{County Court Seal}}
Greg James
As Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: **/s/ Rachel Howard**
As Deputy Clerk



Published December 18, 25, 2025, January 1, 8, 2026

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FS, CASE NO. 24-CA-101
NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT
SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER TRUSTEE
FOR OCWEN LOAN ACQUISITION TRUST 2024-HBI,
Plaintiff,
vs
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES,
ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS
WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF MARIE SHERMAN,
DECEASED, et. al.
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION- CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE
**TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES,
ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS
WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF MARIE SHERMAN,
DECEASED, and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES,
GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL
OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE EST ATE OF MARVIN
ANTHONY DAVIS, DECEASED,**

whose residence is unknown if he/she/they be living; and if he/she/they be dead, the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

TO: DONTANOUS ANTWON DAVIS,
whose residence is unknown and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:
**LOTS 31 AND 32, BLOCK "21", WAKULLA GARDENS, UNIT 1,
ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED
IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 39, PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA
COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before **January 3, 2025** (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Wakulla County, Florida, this 26th day of November, 2025.

{{County Court Seal}}
Greg James
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Wakulla County, Florida
By: **/s/ Rachel Howard**
As Deputy Clerk

**ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, AND
SCHNEID, PL**
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100
Boca Raton, FL 33487
PRIMARY EMAIL: fmail@raslg.com
Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025



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NOTICE OF SALE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

PRIME MERIDIAN BANK, a Case #: 2024 CA 000110
Florida chartered bank,
Plaintiff,
-vs.-
ALINA DAVALOS PEREZ, and
ANACANY A. PEREZ,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Amended Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered December 3, 2025, the Clerk of Court for Wakulla County, Florida will sell to the highest and best bidder the following described property on January 8, 2026, 11:00 a.m. EST, on the first floor in the courthouse lobby at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327:

LOT 6 OF STRATTONWOOD PLACE, a Replat of Lots 6 and 7, a subdivision as per map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Pages 105-6, of the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida.

Commonly known as 120 Strattonwood Place, Crawfordville, FL 32327

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED.

/s/ Michael C. Rayboun, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 150444
RAYBOUN WINEGARDNER PLLC
1410 Piedmont Drive, E, Suite 2
Tallahassee, FL 32308
Telephone: 850-270-9064
Facsimile: 850-518-6124
Primary Email: Mike@FlaLawFirm.com
Secondary Email: Michelle@FlaLawFirm.com
Counsel for Plaintiff



{{County Court Seal}}
Greg James
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Wakulla County, Florida
By: /s/ Rachel Howard
As Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration, 301 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301, (850) 606-4401, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711, via the Florida Relay Service. To file response please contact Leon County Clerk of Court, 301S. Monroe Street, Room #241A, Tallahassee, FL 32302, Tel: (850) 606-4170. December 11, 18, 2025

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
KYMBERLEE DENISE SHIELDS,
DECEASED

File No. 2025 CP 167

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Kimberlee Denise Shields, deceased, whose date of death was August 3, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is December 18, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative John A. Grant Attorney Florida Bar Number: 0946532 2121-C Killamey Way Tallahassee, FL 32309 Telephone: (850) 702-9400 Fax: (850) 702-9410 E-Mail: John@johngrantlaw.com Secondary E-Mail: gracie@johngrantlaw.com	Personal Representative: Keith Shields 18 Shields Lane Crawfordville, FL 32327	December 18, 25, 2025
--	---	-----------------------

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

1211-1218 TWS NOFS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, CASE NO. 25000009CAAXMX
Plaintiff,
vs.
JOSHUA L. HICKS;
Defendants

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment in Mortgage Foreclosure dated July 7, 2025, and entered in Case No. 25000009CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit in and for WAKULLA County, Florida. LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC (hereafter "Plaintiff"), is Plaintiff and JOSHUA L. HICKS, are defendants. Greg James, Clerk of the Circuit Court for WAKULLA, County Florida will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the **First Floor of the Courthouse Lobby, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327** at 11:00 a.m., on the **8TH** day of **JANUARY, 2026**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 2, FAIRWINDS SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION AS PER MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 68 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Francene Brown, Office of Court Administration, Second Judicial Circuit 301 S. Monroe Street, Room 225 Tallahassee FL 32301, Phone no. 850-606-4401 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Si usted es una persona **minusválida** que necesita algún acomodamiento para poder participar en este procedimiento, usted tiene derecho, sin tener gastos propios, a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Tenga la amabilidad de ponerse en contacto con Francene Brown, Office of Court Administration, Second Judicial Circuit 301 S. Monroe Street, Room 225 Tallahassee FL 32301, Phone no. 850-606-4401 por lo menos 7 días antes de la cita fijada para su comparecencia en los tribunales, o inmediatamente después de recibir esta notificación si el tiempo antes de la comparecencia que se ha programado es menos de 7 días; si usted tiene discapacidad del oído o de la voz, llame al 711.

Si ou se yon **moun ki andikape** ou **enfim** ki bezwen akomodasyon pou w ka patisipe nan pwosedi sa, ou kalifye san ou pa gen okenn lajan pou w peye, gen pwovizyon pou jwen kèk èd. Tanpri kontakte Francene Brown, Office of Court Administration, Second Judicial Circuit 301 S. Monroe Street, Room 225 Tallahassee FL 32301, Phone no. 850-606-4401 nan 7 jou anvan dat ou gen randevou pou parèt nan tribinal la, oubyen imedyatman apre ou fin resevwa konvokasyon an si li ou gen pou w parèt nan tribinal la mwens ke 7 jou; si ou gen pwoblèm pou w tande oubyen pale, rele 711.

Dated this 3rd day of December 2025.

Counsel of Plaintiff
Van Ness Law Firm, PLC
1239 E. Newport Center Drive Suite #110
Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442
Phone (954) 571-2031
Pleadings@vanlawfi.com



{{County Court Seal}}
Greg James
As Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Rachel Howard
As Deputy Clerk

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. December 11, 18, 2025

1218-1225 TWS NOFS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A CASE NO. 24000148CAAXMX
QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.,
Plaintiff,
vs.

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF RONALD KWIATKOWSKI, DECEASED; MARY BETH MCCOY, AS POTENTIAL HEIR OF RONALD KWIATKOWSKI, DECEASED; ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED,
Defendants

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment dated December 10, 2025 entered in Civil Case No. 24000148CAAXMX in Circuit Court of the 2nd Judicial Circuit in and for Wakulla County, Florida, Civil Division, wherein ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., Plaintiff and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF RONALD KWIATKOWSKI, DECEASED; MARY BETH MCCOY, AS POTENTIAL HEIR OF RONALD KWIATKOWSKI, DECEASED are Defendant(s), Greg James, Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash beginning at 11:00 AM at the Courthouse lobby at 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on February 12, 2026 the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 8, BLOCK 17, WAKULLA GARDENS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE(S) 39 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address: 137 Choctaw Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM BEFORE THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED.

THE COURT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ENLARGE THE TIME OF THE SALE. NOTICE OF THE CHANGED TIME OF SALE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED HEREIN.

Dated this 11th day of December 2025.

{{County Court Seal}}
Greg James
As Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Rachel Howard
As Deputy Clerk



December 18, 25, 2025

1218-1225 TWS NOFS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC, CASE NO. 24000019CAAXMX
Plaintiff,
vs.
LACRESHIA SESSIONS, ET AL.,
Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated July 15, 2025 and Order Resetting Foreclosure Sale dated December 4, 2025, and entered in Case No. 24000019CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the Judicial Circuit in and for Wakulla County, Florida wherein **PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC**, is the Plaintiff and **LACRESHIA SESSIONS**, is Defendant, I, Greg James, Wakulla County Clerk of Courts, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at **Wakulla County Courthouse lobby, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327** at 11:00 a.m. on **January 8, 2026** the following described property set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 60, BLOCK 51, WAKULLA GARDENS UNIT FIVE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 56, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Commonly known as: 24 Beeler Rd., Crawfordville, FL 32327

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

If the sale is set aside, the Purchaser may be entitled to only a return of the sale deposit less any applicable fees and costs and shall have no other recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Dated this 9th day of December 2025.

{{County Court Seal}}
Greg James
As Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Rachel Howard
As Deputy Clerk



December 18, 25, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **DUANE EVANS LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **46** Date of Issuance: **June 1, 2023**
Parcel #: **12-5s-03w-063-00798-000**
Description of Property:
12-5s-3w Indian Summer
Lot 76 OR 46 P 28
OR 90 P 228 OR 674 P 768
OR 674 P 769 DC OR 940 P 243

Name in which assessed **JEAN C GOOSMAN** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **January 28, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.

November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 020

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **DUANE EVANS LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **85** Date of Issuance: **June 1, 2023**
Parcel #: **02-6s-03w-000-01308-016**
Description of Property:
2-6s-3w p-12-16 .85 ac
a parcel adjacent to Lot 9 of Ochlockonee River Estates
Unit 2 OR 182 P 709 OR 101 P 843-845 OR 436 P 178

Name in which assessed **BROWN BROWN LEONARD ROE ETAL/ THOMAS R WRIGHT ETAL** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **January 28, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.

November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **DUANE EVANS LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **226** Date of Issuance: **June 1, 2023**
Parcel #: **09-5s-02w-000-02748-000**
Description of Property:
9-5s-2w p-11-m-40
Begin at SE cor of NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 DB 47 P 180
OR 1107 P 799 OR 1107 P 801 OR 1294 P 32 OR 1307 P 760

Name in which assessed **HAZEL RANDOLPH/ JACQUELINE WASHINGTON** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **January 28, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.

November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **DUANE EVANS LLC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **266** Date of Issuance: **June 1, 2023**
Parcel #: **23-5s-02w-056-02821-000**
Description of Property:
Joseph Lee Estates
Block G Lot 8
OR 54 P 254 & OR 71 P 967
OR 1079 P 458

Name in which assessed **CHARLES PETE GRIGGS** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **January 28, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.

November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC** The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate #: **42** Date of Issuance: **May 29, 2020**
Parcel #: **35-4s-03w-000-00581-000**
Description of Property:
35 4s 3w p-5-m-25 in the S 1/2 of Sec 35
OR 16 P 390 OR 85 P 435
OR 141 P 871 OR 499 P 634
OR 792 P 644 OR 869 P 730

Name in which assessed **HEIRS OF BUREK GUNBAY** said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: **January 28, 2026** at 10:00 A.M. All bidders must pre-register in the OR Dept. prior to 9:45 P.M. to participate in the auction.

November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk
By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida
Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025



Leave
Nothing
But Your
Footprints

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Certificate #: 600 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023 Parcel #: 08-6s-01w-302-04863-d04 Description of Property: Tradewinds Sub Boat Dock 4

Name in which assessed PANACEA BAY LLC said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: January 28, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 030

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

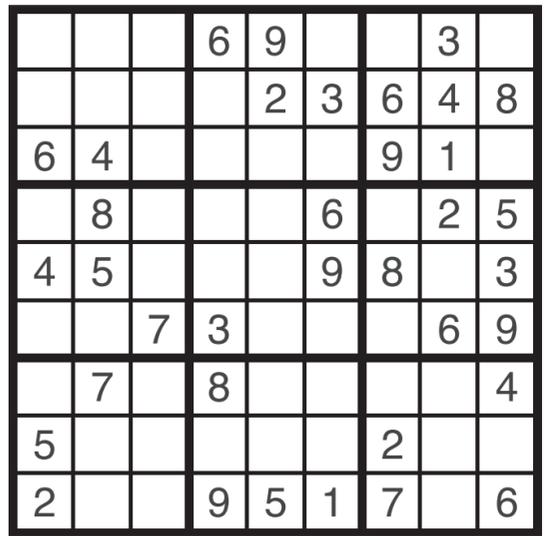
Certificate #: 1261 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023 Parcel #: 00-00-073-178-10186-a18 Description of Property: HS Lot 73 Block A Lot 18 of Trice Estates Unit 1

Name in which assessed HALENE HARTSFIELD said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: January 28, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

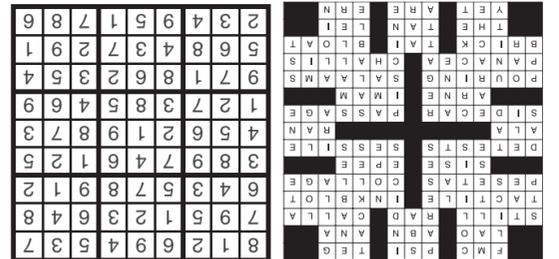
November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025



Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



CROSSWORD

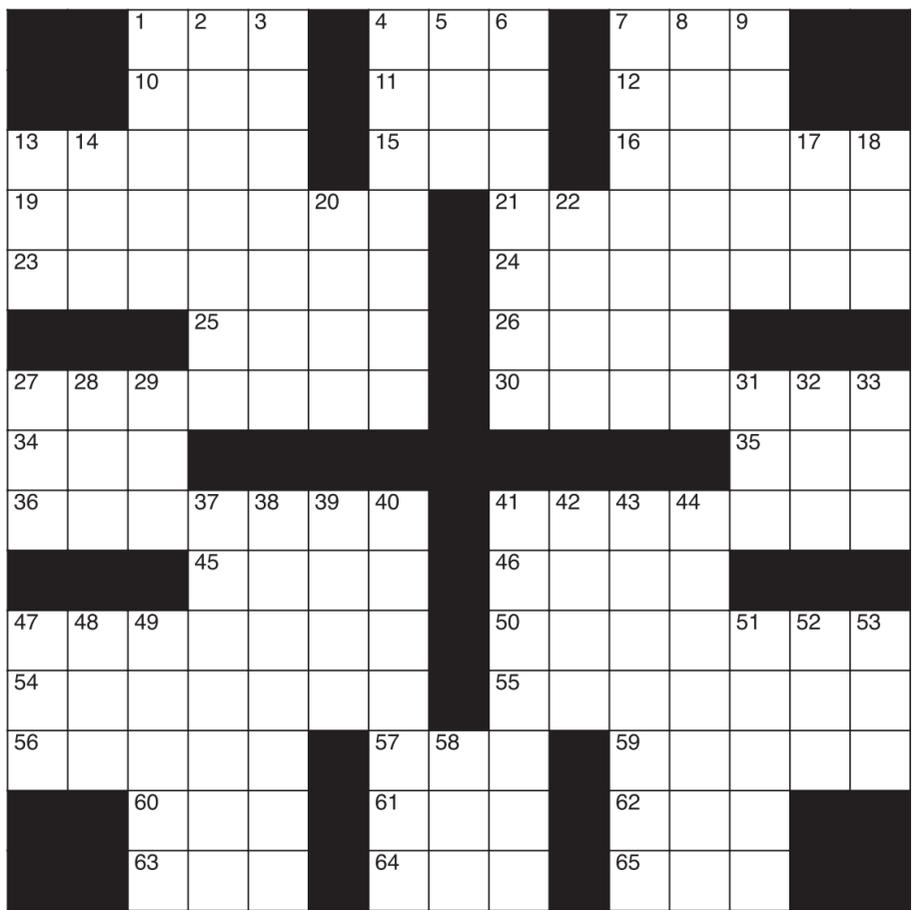
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. American automotive titan
4. Tire term
7. Two-year-old sheep
10. Indigenous people of Thailand
11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group
12. Actress de Armas
13. Not moving
15. Cool!
16. Plants of the arum family
19. Connected with touch
21. Pen stain
23. Monetary units
24. School kids' art project
25. Early Bell Canada executive
26. Sword
27. Hates
30. Fixed in one place
34. Pie ___ mode
35. Moved swiftly on foot
36. Carrier on vehicle
41. A path to get through
45. "Rule, Britannia" composer
46. Spiritual leader
47. Flowing
50. Respectful compliments
54. Cure

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Policemen (French)
2. Toy dog
3. Intestinal condition
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Helps little firms
6. Alphabetical lists
7. Takes down
8. Facilitates
9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia
13. Engine additive
14. Explorers group
17. Written account
18. Consumed

- 20. Opposite of first
22. No (slang)
27. Government lawyers
28. NY Giants great
29. Small amount
31. A way to save for your future
32. Fall behind
33. Midway between north-east and east
37. Head pain
38. Wildly popular sport
39. "Princess Diaries" actress Hathaway
40. Boat race
41. About fish
42. Nursemaid
43. Able to be marketed
44. Not as large
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Paddle
49. Oneness
51. Bitter chemical
52. Not around
53. Very fast airplane
58. Main tributary of the Rhine



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Certificate #: 949 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023 Parcel #: 00-00-035-008-07924-000 Description of Property: Wakulla Gardens Block 24 Lot 19

Name in which assessed JOHN GLYNN PHILLIPS said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: January 28, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 027

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Certificate #: 959 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023 Parcel #: 00-00-035-008-07984-000 Description of Property: Wakulla Gardens Block 25 Lot 12 OR 52 P 157

Name in which assessed CHESTRESS D STAYWICK said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: January 28, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 028

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Certificate #: 976 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023 Parcel #: 00-00-043-010-08866-000 Description of Property: Wakulla Gardens Unit 3 Block 20 Lot 47 OR 7 P 853

Name in which assessed MISS IRIS BAKER BAUMGARNER BAKER said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: January 28, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TAX DEED FILE NO. 2026 TXD 029

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that IDE TECHNOLOGIES INC The holder of the following tax certificate has filed the certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Certificate #: 1246 Date of Issuance: June 1, 2023 Parcel #: 00-00-072-000-10153-005 Description of Property: Lot 72 HS p-5-5-m-21a a parcel in the NW 1/4 of HS 72 on S Side of Hwy 61 OR 448 P 588 OR 881 P 536 OR 993 P 855

Name in which assessed BRYAN LEE HUDSON said property being in the County of Wakulla, State of Florida. Unless suchcertificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Wakulla Co.Courthouseon: January 28, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

November 7, 2025

Signature: Greg James, Clerk By: D. Dee, Deputy Clerk Clerk of Circuit Court, Wakulla County, Florida

Published on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 2025

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH

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V L R S U K C P L E R M C U E D R T M T
M Y P R S R F O T P O G R B A N B D S E
H O U S E H S I M K N N W P H G N O Y Y
M X C I N E D D M N P O A K L N R C U Y B
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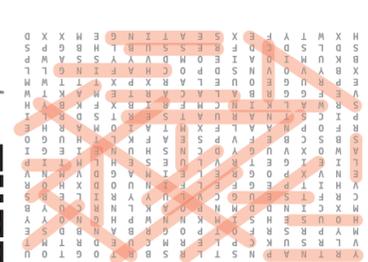
WORDS

- A LA CARTE
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COST
COVER
EXPEDITER
GRIDDLE
GUEST
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MENU
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RESTAURANT
RUNNER
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YIELD

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WRESTLING

Wakulla dominates Suwannee

By WALT JACOBS
Correspondent

The sonorous sound of the announcer's voice rang throughout the gym at Wakulla High School, affectionately known as "The Nest."

Energetically, he proclaimed, "And now, for the most exhilarating, the most electrifying, the most sensational show in high school sports. It's time for Wakulla High School Wrestling."

Indeed, it was time, a time that had been circled on Coach Nate Litowsky's mental calendar since the War Eagles left the Suwannee Coliseum as victims of a 55-15 mauling in January.

No doubt, Litowsky often contemplated the defeat and looked forward to the two schools' next meeting, during his frequent midnight musings over a bowl of pasta.

The Bulldogs who came to town on Thursday night were not the same Bulldogs from January. Nine Suwannee wrestlers from last year's roster were lost to graduation, and Coach Joey Phillips, now at the helm, fills the void left by legendary Coach John Wainwright.

Conversely, the War Eagles, have essentially the same roster and the same coach, but have added maturity and wisdom that only time and experience can bestow.

On Thursday, the handwriting on the wall seemed to forecast a War Eagle victory.

The contest began with a forfeit by Suwannee to Wakulla's Matthew Thaxton at 120 pounds. This began an avalanche of points that continued until 165.

At 126, William Harvey added to the War Eagles lead when he pinned Rylan Milian in dramatic fashion, with a mere two seconds remaining in the second period.

Subsequently, Patrick Cooksey extended the lead, with a pin over Tristan Horne in the second period of the 132 pound bout.

At 138, Suwannee forfeited to Wakulla's Jachai Howard.

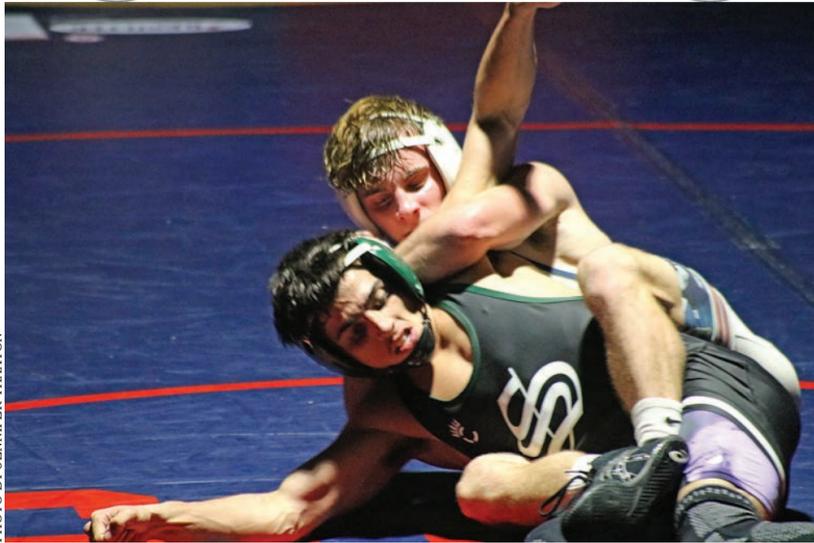
Wakulla's Brady Jackson bumped up a weight class to take on a game Jose Garcia at 144. Jackson notched a major decision over Garcia to bring the match score 28-0.

Aaron Robinson bumped up a weight class as well and added an additional six points, as he locked in his signature cradle and secured a quick pin over Suwannee's Logan Dear in the 150 pound class.

Wakulla's Colt Sanders continued the onslaught with a second period technical fall over Matthew Dykes which added 5 more



PHOTO OF THE WEEK
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RESTAURANT



Brady Jackson vs. Jose Garcia.

points for Wakulla. However, the War Eagles' team score was reduced by one, when Sanders was assessed an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

At 165 lbs., Suwannee's Gabriel Cordero got Suwannee's first points of the evening, when he secured a tech fall over Aiden Pichardo, who was making his varsity debut for Wakulla.

Cole Manning increased the War Eagles' lead by six, with a pin over Noah Chauncey late in the second period of the 175 pound bout.

Gavin Mitchell kept Wakulla rolling with a 12-6 decision over Brenton Middleton.

At 215, Wakulla's Blake Barodte won by pinfall over Joseph Charron midway through the second period.

In the heavyweight bout, Suwannee's 2nd ranked senior, Holden Corbin, pinned sophomore Lonnie Pierce.

That would be the Bulldogs' last points of the match.

In the final bouts of the contest, Brayden Hodges and Kyle Manzi finished strong for the War Eagles in their respective weight classes. Hodges received a win by forfeit and Manzi notched a 15-5 major decision over Hunter Wainwright bringing the final score to Wakulla 63 Suwannee 11.

In the preliminary matches, Julia Baggett won with a first period pinfall over Suwannee's Ryan Hunt.

Wakulla's Sophia Barron fell to Suwannee's Kaylee Simmons in an exhibition match.

LADY WAR EAGLES EXCEL AT QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

The Lady War Eagles took three of their Varsity wrestlers to Enterprise, Alabama on December 12th to compete in the 4th Annual

Queen of the South Tournament.

Wakulla's Kendal Haynie, last year's 107 pound Queen and the tournament's most outstanding wrestler, put on another exciting exhibition of wrestling. At 120 pounds, Haynie went 5-0 over the course of the tournament, via 4 pins and a technical fall, while surrendering a mere 2 points, en route to her second consecutive Queen of the South crown.

One of Haynie's pins came in the finals, at the expense of Alabama state champion McKenzie Nguyen.

Head Coach Jon Sanchez said, "Kendal continues to wrestle strong, while working on areas that need improvement. What's exciting about her is her attitude going into a tough match: She's confident and is always ready to meet the challenge."

Julia Baggett went 4-2 over the weekend and placed 11th in a tough 126 pound bracket. All of Baggett's wins came by pinfall.

"Julia is still pressing forward in her abilities," said Coach Sanchez. "What was great to see was her confidence in taking shots starting to build, and getting in on a shot to the finish. One of the biggest fears a wrestler has is to take a shot."

Sanchez added, "Her first day of the tournament was a little shaky, but the second day she came out more determined. So to see that growth in real time is something that's pretty amazing."

Kameron Easter went 4-3 over the weekend and placed 12th in the 130 pound bracket. Three of Easter's wins came by pin and one by medical forfeit.

Sanchez praised Easter's performance. "To see her step into a heavier weight class from 120 to 130 and do well is crazy. Not every wrestler who goes up

two weight classes can have good success."

Next, the Lady War Eagles will travel to Kissimmee to compete in the Girls Christmas Knockout at Silver Spurs Arena.

RYAN BLACKWELL INVITATIONAL AT GULF BREEZE

Placement results

- 106-Brayden Hodges: 3-1; 2nd place
- 113-Kyle Manzi: 3-2
- 126-William Harvey: 4-0; 1st place
- 132-Patrick Cooksey: 3-2
- 138-Brady Jackson: 3-1; 2nd place
- 175-Cole Manning: 3-2
- 190-Gavin Mitchell: 4-2; 4th place
- 215-Blake Barodte: 3-2
- 285-Lonnie Pierce: 3-2.

WRESTLERS of the WEEK

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"We like where we're at and we like what we are seeing, but no one should feel satisfied. In wrestling, early success doesn't mean much if the habits don't hold. Everything important is still in front of us and the boys and I need to keep working."

- Coach Nate Litowsky



Wakulla's Kyle Manzi vs Nicholas Buzilan of Gulf Shores.



Julia Baggett at Queen of the South.

The
Wakulla Sun
Your local source for news.

CHRISTMAS IN SOPCHOPPY



Santa arrives in Sopchoppy on Saturday by firetruck.

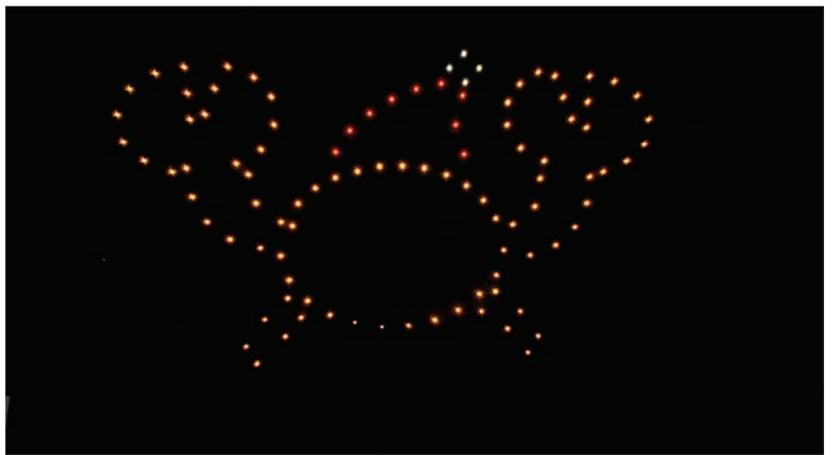


The Morgans – Nolan, 11, Addie, 8, and Hunter, 6 – with Santa.

CHRISTMAS IN PANACEA



Snow at Woolley Park on Sunday for the makeup festival in Panacea.



The drone show featured all kinds of designs including this crab on Sunday night.



Santa meets with kids at Christmas in Panacea.



Kervin Lareche of Orion Skys and Keith McCarthy of Vegas Drones with WHS Drone Teacher James Thaxton getting set up for the night time show.

PHOTOS OF BOTH EVENTS
BY GERALD BROWN

SHOPPER'S *Holiday* GUIDE

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